(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Kerala Government has requested for legislation to ensure a quota for the State government;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) Government's reaction thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) 15 Medical colleges are functioning inKerala out of which 8 are private medical college. Total intake in these medical colleges is 1650 per year.

(b) to (f) Presently admission process is being managed in view of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in its judgment dated 14.8.2003 in case of Islamic Academy of Education wherein it has been clarified that the State Government may prescribe percentage of seats in private medical college which can be filled by the management. The remaining seats are to be filled up as per merit through Common Entrance conducted by State Agency. However, as per the latest observations of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in judgement given in case of PA Inamdar Vs. State of Maharashtra, the Court has observed that there cannot any reservation in those institutions which are fully funded by private entitied. In view of the judgment the Government is in the process of bringing in a legislation for regulating admission and fee structure in private medical institutions.

Health care system in Karnataka

1898. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WEFLARE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to upgrade the healthcare system in Karnataka;

(b) the amount proposed to be spent in this regard;

(c) whether there is any proposal to upgrade the PHCs to the status of Community Health Centres (CHCs) in Karnataka; and

(d) if so, the number of PHCs that will be upgraded to the status of Community Health Centres?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Malnutrition among the children

1899. SHRI DARA SINGH:
SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:
SHRI SURENDRA LATH:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether one among three children suffering from malnutrition in the world is in India as per a recent publication of the UNICEF;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating efforts made by Government to deal with this problem;

(c) whether 47 per cent children upto 4 years of age were found suffering from malnutrition on the basis of a child *vis-a-vis* his age, as per National Family Health Survey conducted in 1998-99, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by Government so far to deal with this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) As per the UNICEF publication entitled. 'Mapping India's children UNICEF in action' one in every three malnourished children in the world lives in India.

As per the National Family Health Survey-II, conducted in 1998-99, covering children under 3 years of age, 47% are undernourished while 18% are severely undernourished.

The Government has initiated various measures to improve the nutritional and health staus of the population in the country. These measures are:

1. Improving agricultural and horticulture produce.
2. Improving the purchasing power of the people through various income generating schemes.
3. Availability of essential food items at subsidized cost through Public Distribution System.